

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 5-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,270,612 to Bradshaw in view of either one of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,429 to Shibata or U.S. Patent No. 5,579,093 to Wagner. To overcome this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to recite limitations similar to those recited in claim 2, and to further recite that each expansion member is “integrally connected to a respective end cap and held in substantial alignment with its respective core securing portion by a frangible connection.” Specifically, claim 1 now recites:

wherein said providing the pair of end caps and said providing the pair of expansion members includes providing the end caps and the expansion members such that each end cap and each expansion member is constructed of a molded plastic material and each expansion member is integrally connected to a respective end cap and held in substantial alignment with its respective core securing portion by a frangible connection so that each end cap and the associated expansion member are provided as a single molded plastic component,

said method further comprising breaking the frangible connection between each expansion member and the associated end cap to separate each expansion member from the associated end cap as each expansion member is being moved inwardly relative to each said core securing portion as aforesaid.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in paragraph 6 of his Official Action, neither Bradshaw, Shibata, nor Wagner teach providing the end cap and expansion member as a single molded plastic component integrally connected by a frangible connection, or breaking the frangible connection to separate the two. In his rejection of claim 2, however, the Examiner relied on U.S. Patent No. 4,194,273 to Williams for these limitations. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that adding Williams to the other references applied against claim 1 would not render claim 1 obvious.

As a threshold matter, Williams is directed to an attachment for fishing lines and tackle, which is a completely non-analogous art. Fishing equipment has absolutely nothing to do with the invention of claim 1, which relates to attaching end caps to the ends of a core of a feed roll used in a master processing operation. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art to which claim 1 relates would not be reasonably expected to look to Williams for guidance.

Additionally, Williams does not provide any teachings suggesting the desirability of providing each end cap and each expansion member in claim 1 as a single molded plastic component integrally connected by a frangible connection. Specifically, Williams does not mention that its frangible connection could be used on other types of devices, and it certainly does not mention anything remotely related to the end caps and expansion members of claim 1.

Further, claim 1 does not just recite that the expansion members and end caps are integrally connected by a frangible connection. It also recites that each expansion member is "held in substantial alignment with a respective core securing portion by a frangible connection." This positioning is not remotely suggested by Williams, as Williams does not even have any structures that are in substantial alignment. However, having the expansion member held in substantial alignment with the core securing portion by the frangible connection is beneficial because it allows the expansion member to be readily moved inwardly relative to the core securing portion as claimed. This advantage simply is not found in or suggested by Williams, or any of the other references of record.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over the art of record, and withdrawal of the rejection against claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable not only for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1, but also for the reason that they recite additional patentable features.

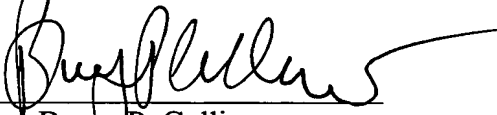
Independent claim 8 is newly added and is directed to an end cap system. Claim 8 recites similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, including limitations concerning the frangible connection. Thus, claim 8 is submitted to be patentable at least for those reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1.

All objections and rejections have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is earnestly submitted.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number to resolve any issues and facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: 

Bryan P. Collins

Reg. No. 43,560

Tel. No.: 703.905.2038

Fax No.: 703.905.2500

BPC:ml

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
Tel. No.: 703.905.2000